

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 07656 301247Z

44

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6433

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7656

FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE, S/NM

CARACAS FOR DEA

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR CO

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: POSSIBLE FUTURE OPIUM SOURCE COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 173447

1. DEA BOGOTA HAS RECEIVED SCATTERED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT LIMITED, SMALL-SCALE OPIUM CULTIVATION EXISTS IN ISOLATED AREAS OF THE ANDES MOUNTAINS ALONG THE COLOMBIAN-ECUADORIAN FRONTIER. GOC NATIONAL POLICE (F-2) NARCOTICS SPECIALISTS BELIEVE THAT LARG-ER-SCALE OPIUM CULTIVATION MAY EXIST IN THE RUGGED SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA. WE HAVE NO RPT NO EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD LINK SUS-PECTED OPIUM PRODUCTION WITH MAJOR COLOMBIAN DRUG TCWFFICKING GROUPS, OR THAT SUCH GROUPS ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES TO START OPIUM PRODUCTION HERE. SUCH PRODUCTION IS AND WOULD BE ILLEGAL UNDER COLOMBIAN LAW.

2. GIVEN THE ABOVE REPORTS AND OPINIONS FROM EXPERT SOURCES IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD, WE CONCLUDE THAT CLIMATIC AND SOIL CONDI-TIONS SUITABLE FOR AT LEAST LIMITED CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 07656 301247Z

DO EXIST IN COLOMBIA. MOREOVER, GIVEN THE PAST HISTORY OF ORGAN-

IZED CRIME IN COLOMBIA, WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT DRUG TRAFFICKERS
HERE WOULD SEEK TO EXPLOIT THESE CONDITIONS TO THE FULLEST SHOULD
THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENT ITSELF. TO DATE, HOWEVER, DEA AND GOC
AGENCIES HAVE DEVELOPED NO CASES AND MADE NO ARRESTS FOR EITHER
OPIUM PRODUCTION OR PROCESSING.

DREXLER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: OPIUM, DRUG TRAFFIC, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
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Draft Date: 29 JUL 1976
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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